

RATE MAKERS GET HARD RAP FROM PIANO DEALER

Speaker Declares Federal Commission Leans Toward Railroads.

GREAT HARMONY IN CONVENTION

President Droop Makes Strong
Plea for Merchant Marine and
Ships to Carry Our Products
Abroad — Clement Elected
President—Get Royal
Welcome.

Casualty criticism of the merchant marine policy of Congress as "criminal," and severe arraignment of the Interstate Commerce Commission, were so saturated by association with corporate affairs that they prefer the rights of the railroads to those of the people, were the most striking features of the first session of the National Association of Great Dealers of America yesterday morning in the Jefferson auditorium. Many matters of organization detail came up, but they were dispatched with rapidity for this convention bids fair to go down in the city's annals not only as perhaps the largest that ever assembled here, but as the most businesslike.

Played Master Element.
That master element of music—harmony—was certainly reflected in the actions and attitudes of the many members of the musical trade at the first session of their ninth annual convention, which opened here last night and moved more smoothly than the meeting yesterday, and the music master, President E. H. Droop, struck a resonant, echoing key of progress and optimism. The spirit of good fellowship and gladness that ran through the proceedings found its outlet in Mayor Richardson's ringing speech of real Virginia welcome. As he turned to take his seat there was a thunder of applause, a hull, and then another greater than the first. It was the Mayor had to make his bow. And then they gave him three cheers that would drown all the noise that ever was made at a Virginia-Carolina football fight. The piano men know how and know it's what. They are in for good time.

Favors Merchant Marine.

The first hot shot of the day came from President Dwoop in his annual report. It was in relation to merchant marine and ocean mail.

"This question of merchant marine is the most vital that confronts the people of the United States to-day. This republic is absolutely dependent on foreign ships for the transportation of our mails and our commerce," he said.

"The parsimonious policy that has been pursued by Congress toward proper encouragement and recognition of our needs in connection with our merchant and fishing fleets, in our judgment, criminal. Millions of dollars are appropriated for building battleships and maintaining them, but little or nothing is forthcoming for the purpose of purchasing coilers and transports for subsidizing merchant vessels that would be manned by American sailors that would be manned by American sailors that would carry our commerce into the markets of the world, and in case of war would immediately become auxiliary to our navy. The situation is truly appalling."

When the United States \$200,000,000 battleship fleet went around the globe, President Droup continued, it had to depend almost wholly on foreign nations for its coal supply. If war had been declared, he said, when the fleet was thousands of miles away from home international law would have cut the fleet off from a coal supply. "Japan has to-day in the neighborhood of 600 available ships on the Pacific coast, against not over eight or ten of the United States."

Must Develop Markets.
 "We cannot develop our markets, we cannot extend our commerce and we cannot compete with other nations of the world, not even get a fair percentage of trade proportionate with our size and productiveness, as long as all freight and mail for the other South American countries must first proceed to England, or perhaps to the Continent, and then be brought back over the Atlantic and be taken to their destination in the far South.

"Few people have any idea of the enormous size of the South American republics, of the tremendous wealth

Among the lesser matters touched on in the president's address were the necessity for the re-establishment of the freight bureau, the advisability of having a "spellbinding" to promote organization and a "brain trust" to encourage broad-minded, deliberate action in the matter of "guessing contests." As to this last named matter of controversy, President Draper took the position that if such contests are legitimate and trustworthy they should receive the approval of the association. If they are not, he said, the best way to handle the trade, they ought to be eliminated. He advised the nearest feasible approach to unified action.

Raya Federal Commission.
The Interstate Commerce Commission, as well as the freight and railroad commissions of the several States, came in for sharp censure by E. B. T. Hollenberg, of Arkansas, chairman of the Freight Bureau, while he made his report.

"I make no formal charges," he said, "but we can gain little by going before these commissions. The members of them, most of them long accustomed to the viewpoint of the corporations, gained from association with corpor-

has been employed on some houses his brother is building at Sherwood, but the work having been finished, he was to-day informed that there was nothing more for him to do. He appeared to have interpreted this as an attempt of Dr. Stevenson to get rid of him, and this impression led to the shooting. Stevenson made some show of resistance to the officers, but was finally lodged in jail. He refused to make any statement.

SPENDS RESTLESS DAY

Dr. Waugh Says Senator Daniel's Condition Remains About Same.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Lynchburg, Va., May 16.—Dr. Waugh's bulletin to-day, concerning Senator Daniel's condition, was as follows:

"Senator Daniel has had a rather restless day-to-day, and has not slept as much during the past twenty-four hours as he has been doing recently, and in consequence, I did not take much of an effort to-night to ascertain his mental condition; but about the middle of the day-to-day I got enough out of him to indicate that he was fully as well mentally as he was yesterday. The indications are that he

WILD CHEERS FOR
MINT JULEP GIRL

Miss Kaspar, at Piano Smoke
Verified Prophecy Made
Long Ago.

HANDFUL OF BLUE CHIPS, TO

President Wood Tells How Richmond Is Soon to Be Great Musical Centre.

"Richmond is a fair young woman waiting to welcome you, with a minijulep in one hand and a stack of bluchips in the other," said "Bob" Cassell, one of the most popular members of the National Association of Plan Dealers, at the last convention, trying to land it for Richmond. This conception was breathed into life last night.

at the entertainment given by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, for Miss Francesca Kaspar, who lives up to the description given above, tripped out to the front of the stage in the Jefferson auditorium, a mint julep in one hand and the "blues" in the other, proposing a toast of welcome, while the audience

Long before the delicate fragrance of the mint stole into the auditorium a mass of color and beauty and life the entertainment was a triumph of cordial hospitality. It was a brilliant scene—the national colors everywhere and palms and evergreens here and there and a fine array of smiling-faced me-

and handsomely gowned women from every corner of the nation, all glowing with the thrill of a genuine welcome. These convention guests are full of sentiment and appreciation, and they sang "Dixie" and "Suwanee River" with just as much spirit and unfeigned

Great Tribute to Lee.

In a speech that was brimful of warm sentiment, James C. Ramsdell

and sentiment, James G. Thompson, of Philadelphia, made the response for the guests of the city. Sounding the key of a harmonious people throughout the nation, sweeping over sectional barriers, he said:

the Blue and the Gray fought together for a common country, and I am thankful that the great Lee's statue can stand in the rotunda of our Capitol with the approbation of our entire country."

Cultivating Muscle.
Henry W. Wood, president of the Chamber of Commerce, extended the welcome of that organization in a most appropriate and admirable little speech. "I hope your stay will develop the

musical tastes of Richmond to a greater extent than they are now," he said "and I feel that it will be that way. We already have an excellent musical club, the Wednesday Club, and we are talking of finer things for the

"We are planning a grand organ for the City Auditorium, and, maybe, you will fire us with the determination to

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